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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 5750

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: SEPTEMBER 13 MORNING SESSION

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MET MORNING SEPTEMBER 13 TO CONSIDER AND ANCPUNCE TEMPORARY RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. STUDENT /BUDDHIST DEMONSTRATION RUMORED TO TAKE PLACE IN FRONT OF ASSEMBLY (REFTEL) DID NTD MATERIALIZE. NATIONAL POLICE WEGB VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AT STUDENT HEADQUARTERS NEAR CATHEDRAL AND AT ASSDXBLY BUILDING. SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS (40-50) REPORTEDLY GATHERED AT STUDENT CENTER, BUT DID NOTHING. AN

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QUANG BUDDHISTS WERE ALSO QUIET. ALTHOUGH PAGODA IS DISPLAYING BANNERS PROTESTING GVN APPROVAL OF TAM CHAU CHARTER AND CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF BUDDHISTS ARRESTED IN 1966 STRUGGLE. (SIGNS PROTESTING CHARTER HAVE DECORATED AN QUANG FOR MORE THAN A MONTH.)

2. DESPITE ABSENCE OF DEMONSTRATORS, LARGE PRESS CONTINGENT WAITING AT ASSEMBLY WAS GIVEN SOME SATISFACTION

BY BRIEF APPEARANCE OF TRUONG DINH DZU. IN IMPROMPTU REMARKS TO PRESS ON STEPS OF ASSEMBLY DZU REPORTEDLY INVITED CORRESPONDENTS TO FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE BY SIX DEFEATED CANDIDATES AS WELL AS SOME DEFEATED UPPER HOUSE SLATES MORING SEPTEMBER 14 AT HEADQUARTERS OF HIS "NATIONAL RESISTANCE FRONT". DZU THEN ENTERED ASSEMBLY WHERE HE WAS JOINED BY HOANG CO BINH AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TRAN VAN HUONG AND NGUYEN HOA HIEP TO LISTEN TO PRESENTATION OF TEMPORARY RESULTS.

3. APPROXIMATELY 60 DEPUTIES ATTENDED SESSION. ASSEMBLY SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN THANH VINH NOTED THAT AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, A NUMBER OF PROVINCES HADNBTILL NOT SENT OFFICIAL REPORTS OF ELECTION RESULTS. VINH ADDED THAT IN MANY CASES FIGURES OF OFFICIAL REPORTS FROM

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PROVINCES DID NOT COINCIDE WITH RESULTS REPORTED TELEGRAPHICALLY. MEMBERS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE READ RESULTS FROM EACH CONSTITUENCY, TAKEN EITHER FROM OFFICIAL REPORTS OR TELEGRAMS. NGUYEN HUU CHUNG PRESENTED SAIGON RESULTS. DAM VAN QUY I CORPS, NGUYEN HUU HEIP II CORPS, NGUYEN HUU LUONG III CORPS AND BANH NGOC QUY IV CORPS. EACH NOTED VARIOUS INCONSISTENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, QUY SAID THAT I CORPS FIGURES WHOW THAT TOTAL VOTES CAST (VALID AND INVALID) EXCEED NUMBER OF PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE VOTED (788,212 VERSUS 786,572). HIEP SAID THAT REPORTS FROM II CORPS INDICATE THAT CHIEF POLLING PLACES IN MANY PROVINCES DID NOT

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HVE OFFICIAL CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES
DL
4. COUNTRYWIDE "TEMPORARY" TOTALS WERE PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS: SUU = 514,047; KY=351,206; BINH=129,936; DZU=815,448; HUONG =474,505; CO==106,402; LY=91,674; HIEP=160,803; THIEU=1,65,624; KHANH=149,496; QUAT=293,085.

5. THESE FIGURES DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE ORIGINALLY POSTED AT ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, THEY ARE BY NO MEANS FINAL.

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VARIOUS DEPUTIES ARGUED THAT ASSEMBLY SHOULD HAVE MORE INFORMATION BEFORE ANNOUNCING EVEN TEMPORARY RESULTS. CHAIRMA SUU SAID THAT IN SOME VLOVINCES THERE HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIAL TALLIES FROM VILLAGES, AND WONDERED HOW PROVINCES ARRIVED AT THEIR TOTALS. NGUYEN THANH VINH AGREED THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMTION WAS NECESSARY, INCLUDING ELECTION REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES, BEFORE TEMPORARY RESULTS COULD BE ANNOUNCED BY ASSEMBLY. NGUSGN HUU DUC ARGUED THAT THESE SHOULD BE TERMED "PRELIMINARY" RATHER THAN "TEMPORARY" RESULTS.

6. ASSEMBLY CONCLUDED ITS EFFORTS BY APPROVING ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY FOLOWING STATEMENT: "NATIONASSEMBLY HAS NOT ANNOUNCED TEMPORARY RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BECAUSE IT
LACKS NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION".

7. IN OTHER BUSINESS ASSEMBLY NAMED PHAN NHU TOAN AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON LOWER HOUE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. ASSEMBLY TOOK NO ACTION ON REQUEST BY LY VAN HIEP THAT HE BE REPLACED ON PRESIDENTIAL CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE THAT HIEP SHOULD REMAIN A MEMBER WHEZER HE LIKES IT OR NOT. ASSEMBLY

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WILL RECONVENE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 13 TO CONSIDER
PETITION BY A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES REQUEST JG CERTAIN
REVISIOFE IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THEIR MOTIVATIONS MAY VARY,
MAJORITY OF DEPUTIES SEEM DETERMINED TO FULLY EXERCISE
THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVE TO "CONTROL THE
PROPRIETY" OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THEY WERE IN A
RATHER LEGALISTIC ND NIT-PICKING FRAME OF MIND IN
SEPTEMBER 13 SESSION, AND APPEAR LIKELY TC PROLONG
FINAL DECISION OF VALIDITY OF ELECTION UNTIL OCTOBER 2
DEADLINE.

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